

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A collapsible container comprising:

a base member;

at least one support member for supporting an object placed in the container, the at least one support member rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between an essentially flat two-dimensional planar configuration and an extended configuration wherein a plane defined by the at least one support member is oblique with respect to a plane defined by the base member; and

means for bearing a load exerted by the at least one support member when an object is placed in the container while in the extended configuration, the means for bearing a load comprising at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the support members and adapted to resist movement of the at least one support member in a direction caused by the load wherein the at least one hook receives a respective one of the at least one support member when the container is in the extended configuration.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

²
4. (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim 1, the at least one hook comprising a plurality of hooks wherein one of the hooks is affixed to alternating support members and adapted to receive a portion of an adjacent support member when the container is in the extended configuration.

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5. ³ (currently amended) The A collapsible container of claim 1 further comprising:

a base member;

at least one support member for supporting an object placed in the container, the at least one support member rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between an essentially flat configuration and an extended configuration;

means for bearing a load exerted by the at least one support member when an object is placed in the container while in the extended configuration, the means for bearing a load comprising at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the support members and adapted to resist movement of the at least one support member in a direction caused by the load wherein the at least one hook receives a respective one of the at least one support member when the container is in the extended configuration; and

a plurality of support members, the base member comprising a circular rim, the plurality of support members being circumferentially disposed on the rim, each of the support members having a first distal end and a second distal end connecting the support member to the rim, the support members being disposed so that one of the distal ends of a support member overlaps with one of the distal ends of an adjacent support member.

6. ⁴ (currently amended) The collapsible container of claim [1] ³ further comprising:

a plurality of stoppers circumferentially disposed on the rim, the stoppers adapted to prevent movement of the plurality of support members outside a predetermined area; and

means for hanging the container.

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7.5 (currently amended) ~~The A collapsible container of claim 1~~
comprising:

a base member;

at least one support member for supporting an object placed in the container, the at least one support member rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between an essentially flat configuration and an extended configuration;

means for bearing a load exerted by the at least one support member when an object is placed in the container while in the extended configuration, the means for bearing a load comprising at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the support members and adapted to resist movement of the at least one support member in a direction caused by the load wherein the at least one hook receives a respective one of the at least one support member when the container is in the extended configuration;

the base member comprising a substantially planar back plate adapted to be mounted to a flat surface;

the at least one support member comprising a first arcuate brace and a second arcuate brace rotatably connected to the back plate, at least one depending support member each having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end rotatably connecting the depending support member to the first arcuate brace and the distal end being adapted to releasably engage the back plate; and

the means for bearing a load comprising at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the depending support members, the hook adapted to receive a portion of the second arcuate brace when the container is in the extended configuration.

^{8.6} (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim 1:
the base member comprising a substantially planar frame;
the at least one support member comprising a first side frame, a second side frame, a first end frame and a second end frame; and
the means for bearing a load comprising at least one hook affixed to at least one of the support members, the hook adapted to receive a portion of one of the support members when the container is in the extended configuration.

9. (cancel)

⁷ ~~10~~. (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim ⁵ ~~7~~ further comprising three depending support members, the means for bearing a load further comprising a hook affixed to a respective distal end of at least one of the three depending support members and adapted to releasably engage a corresponding aperture in the back plate, wherein the depending support members are curvilinear.

11. (canceled)

12⁸ (presently amended) ~~The collapsible container of claim 11, A collapsible container comprising:~~

a base member, the base member comprising a circular rim and the plurality of support members are circumferentially disposed on the rim;

a plurality of support members rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between a substantially flat configuration and an extended configuration for holding an object, the object exerting a load when placed in the container; and

at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the plurality of support members wherein at least one of the plurality of support members engages the at least one hook when the load is exerted on the plurality of support members, the at least one hook being adapted to resist movement of the engaging support member in a direction caused by the load.

13.⁹ (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim 12 wherein each of the plurality of support members comprising a semi-elliptical loop segment.

14.⁸ (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim 12, each of the plurality of loop segments comprising a first distal end and a second distal end rotatably connecting the loop segment to the rim; and

the first and second distal ends of a loop segment being disposed in an overlapped relationship with the first and second distal ends of adjacent loop segments.

15.¹¹ (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim 13⁹ further comprising:

an even number of support members wherein the at least one hook is affixed to alternate support members so that each hook is engaged by an adjacent support member when the container is in its extended configuration.

16.¹² (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim ¹¹~~15~~ further comprising:

a plurality of stoppers circumferentially disposed on the rim, the stoppers adapted to prevent movement of the plurality of support members outside a predetermined area; and

means for hanging the container.

~~17.~~ (currently amended) ~~The collapsible container of claim 11: A~~
collapsible container comprising:

a base member, the base member comprising a substantially planar back plate adapted to be mounted to a flat surface; and

a plurality of support members rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between a substantially flat configuration and an extended configuration for holding an object, the object exerting a load when placed in the container;

at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the plurality of support members wherein at least one of the plurality of support members engages the at least one hook when the load is exerted on the plurality of support members, the at least one hook being adapted to resist movement of the engaging support member in a direction caused by the load; and

the plurality of support members comprising a first arcuate support member rotatably connected with the back plate for articulating the first arcuate support member between a position that is in substantially the same plane defined by the back plate and a position that is substantially perpendicular to the back plate.

18/13 The collapsible container of claim 17, the plurality of support members further comprising:

a second support member rotatably connected with the back plate for articulating the second support member between a position that is in substantially the same plane defined by the back plate and a position that is oblique to the back plate; and

at least one depending support member, the at least one depending support member comprising a proximal end rotatably engaging the first support member and a distal end adapted to releasably engage the back plate.

19/14 The collapsible container of claim 18 wherein the at least one hook is affixed to the at least one depending support member and adapted to receive a portion of the second support member.

20. (canceled)

21/16 (previously presented) A collapsible container comprising:
a base member;

at least one support member for supporting an object placed in the container, the at least one support member comprising a plurality of semi-elliptical loop segments rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between an essentially flat configuration and an extended configuration; and

means for bearing a load exerted by the at least one support member when an object is placed in the container while in the extended configuration, the means for bearing a load adapted to resist movement of the at least one support member in a direction caused by the load and comprising at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the support members.

22.⁷ (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim 21, the at least one hook comprising a plurality of hooks wherein one of the hooks is affixed to alternating support members and adapted to receive a portion of an adjacent support member when the container is in the extended configuration.

23.⁸ (previously presented) A collapsible container comprising:
a base member;
a plurality of support members rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between a substantially flat configuration and an extended configuration for holding an object, the object exerting a load when placed in the container;

at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the plurality of support members wherein at least one of the plurality of support members engages the at least one hook when the load is exerted on the plurality of support members, the at least one hook being adapted to resist movement of the engaging support member in a direction caused by the load;

the base member comprising a circular rim and the plurality of support members are circumferentially disposed on the rim;

each of the plurality of support members comprising a semi-elliptical loop segment; and

an even number of support members wherein the at least one hook is affixed to alternate support members so that each hook is engaged by an adjacent support member when the container is in its extended configuration.

24.⁹ (previously presented) The collapsible container of claim 23 further comprising:

a plurality of stoppers circumferentially disposed on the rim, the stoppers adapted to prevent movement of the plurality of support members outside a predetermined area; and

means for hanging the container.